

Clinical Laboratory Update

August 2020

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

Labor Day holiday hours

Please be aware that the MHD Laboratory will be closed on **Monday, September 7** for Labor Day. We will return to normal business hours on Tuesday, September 8. Samples can be dropped off over the weekend following the after-hours drop-off guidelines in our [COVID-19 Testing Instructions](#). Samples received after noon on Saturday, September 5 will not be processed until the following Tuesday. Please keep in mind that samples must be received at the MHD Lab within 72 hours of collection.

MHDL launches COVID-19 website

MHDL has launched a [COVID-19 website](#), which includes our recently updated COVID-19 Testing Instructions, as well as details on diagnostic testing platforms, antibody testing recommendations, specimen transport and other related resources.

Flu and respiratory virus season considerations during COVID-19

With many clinical and laboratory operations greatly impacted by COVID-19 response, MHDL reminds clinical partners to keep in mind testing and prevention guidelines for influenza and other respiratory diseases this season. According to the CDC, maintaining immunization services will be essential to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks and reduce the burden of respiratory illness during the upcoming influenza season. In addition to following [CDC 2020-21 flu season recommendations](#), continued use of face coverings for COVID-19 will also help reduce incidents of other respiratory infections.

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of August is included as a supplement to this report.

Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing Instructions](#)

[MHDL COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

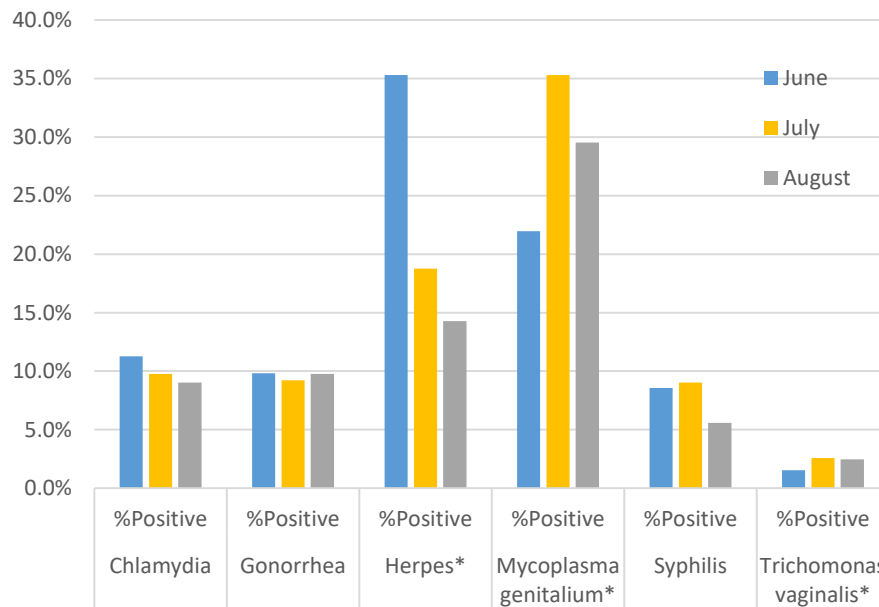


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

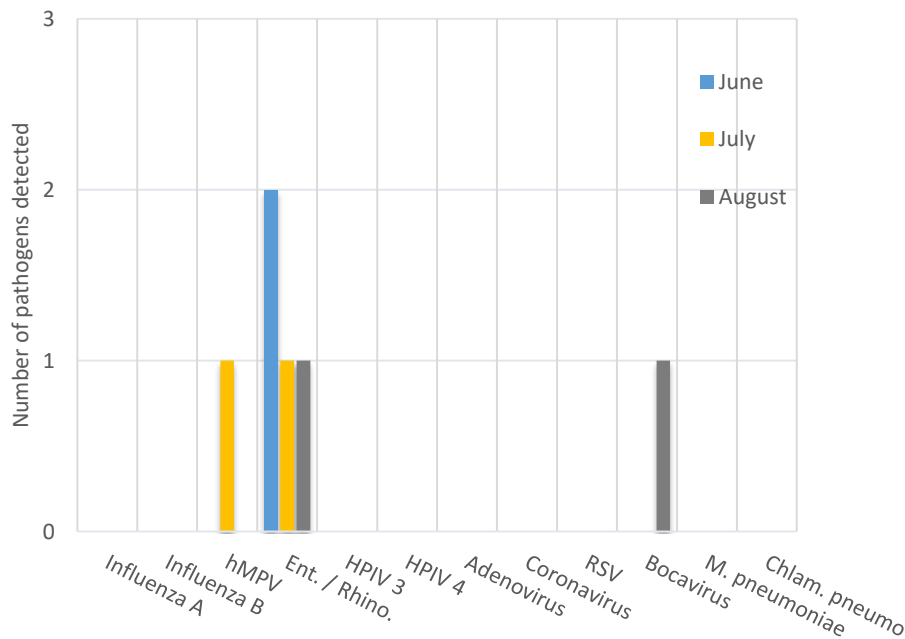


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

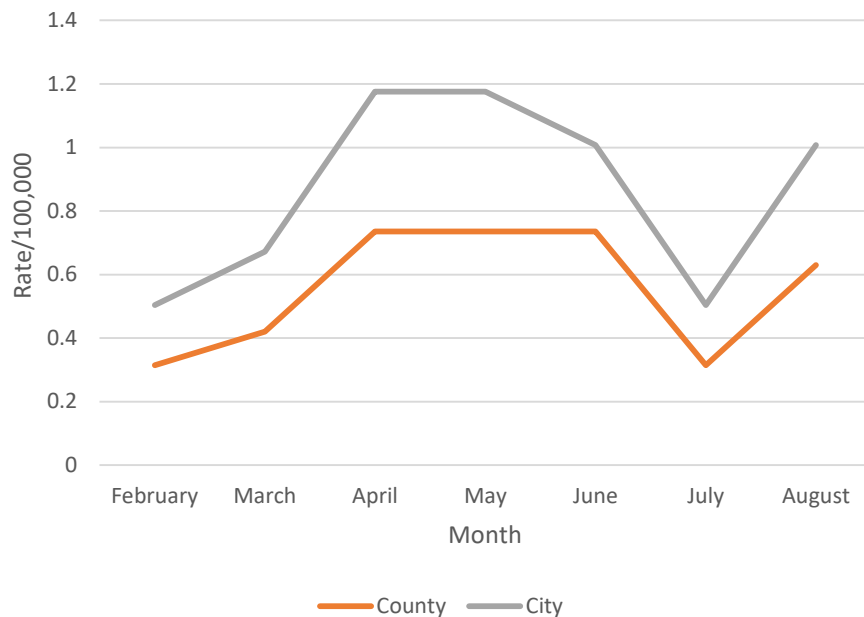


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

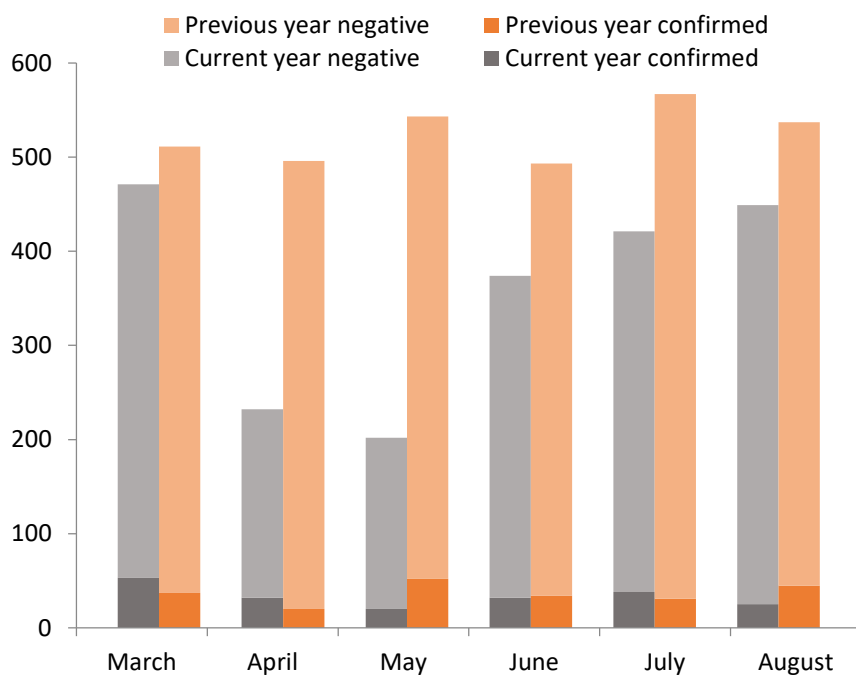


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

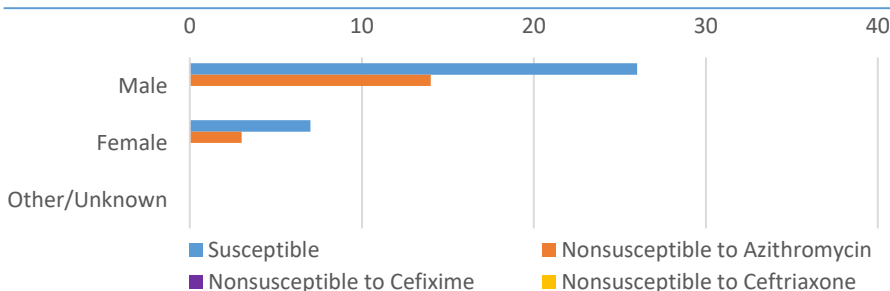


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In August 2020, 17 of 50 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

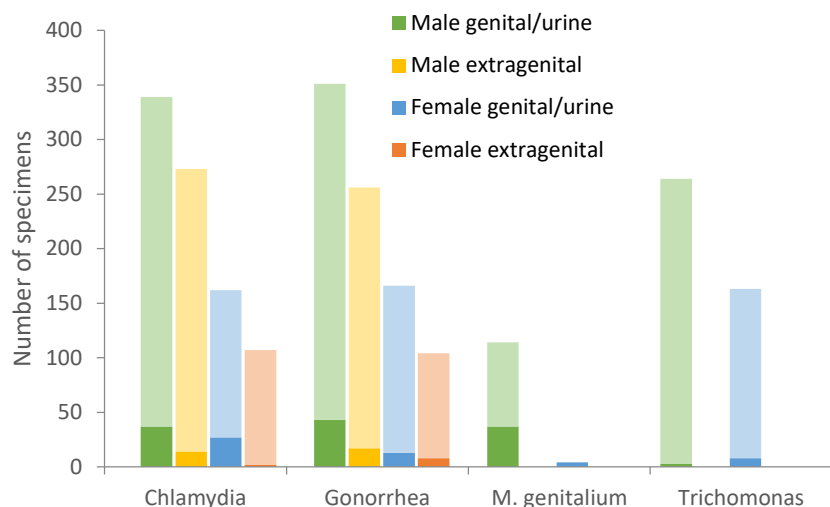


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In August 2020, 8.3% of male and 10.8% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 9.0% of male and 11.8% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 29.1% of male and the one female specimen were positive for *M. genitalium*. 1.2% of male specimens and 4.4% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

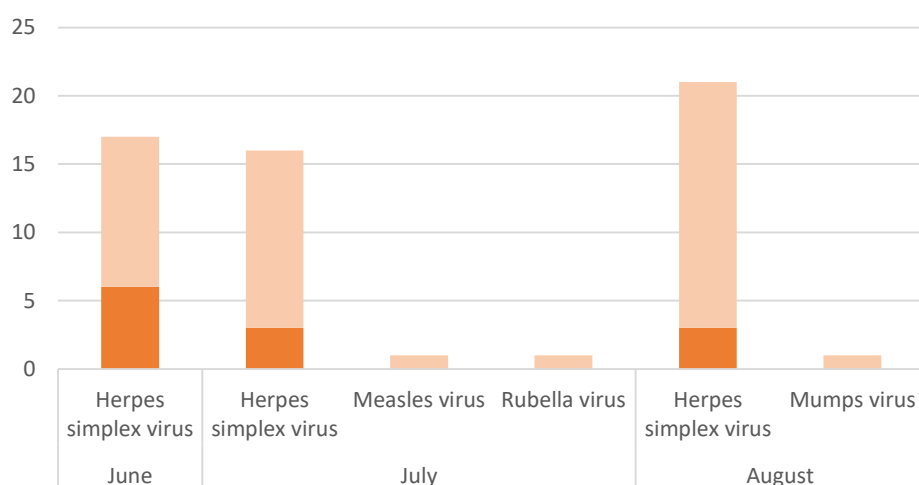


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

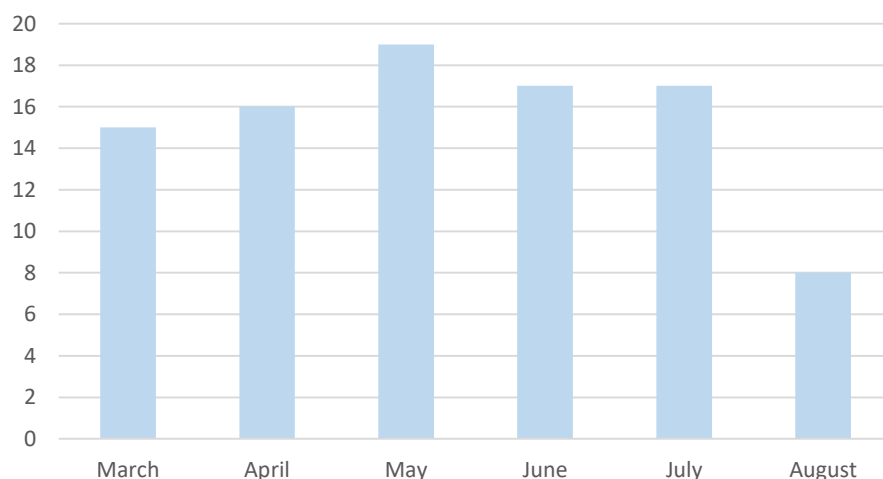


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR. (There were no positives in the period shown)